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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/620,611	07/17/2003	Makoto Nishimura	2003_0976A	9671
513	7590	09/12/2006	EXAMINER	
WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P.			LE, HUNG CHARLIE	
2033 K STREET N. W.				
SUITE 800			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1021				3663

DATE MAILED: 09/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/620,611	NISHIMURA ET AL.
	Examiner Hung C. Le	Art Unit 3663

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 June 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1 - 12 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11 - 12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1 - 10 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 13 July 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>01/31/06</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I (Claims 1 – 10) in the reply filed on 06/22/2006 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that A search and examination of all claims would not place a burden on the examiner. This is not found persuasive because:

Each species would require a separate search in view of their mutually exclusive characteristics, and these individual searches would not be co-extensive.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

2. Claims 11 – 12 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected group, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 06/22/2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

4. Claims 1 & 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because:

The claims recite both an apparatus and methods steps. See MPEP 2173.05 (p). II

The term "...by means of..." referring to an apparatus limitations.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 1 & 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The term "...by means of..." referring to an apparatus limitations whereas the claims are a method claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 1 – 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fenel (4,722,216).

With respect to claim 1: Fenel (Abstract, Figs. 1 – 7) discloses: A method for working a tube comprising:

inserting a mandrel into a blank tube in a form of a welded tube;
applying a parallel swaging operation by means of a die so as to cause the blank tube to contact tightly with the mandrel;
subsequently withdrawing the die from the blank tube, while keeping the mandrel in the blank tube; and
moving a push-die to the blank tube from a radially outward position to flatten a weld portion on the blank tube in cooperation with the mandrel.

While patent drawings are not drawn to scale, relationships clearly shown in the drawings of a reference patent cannot be disregarded in determining the patentability of claims. See In re Mraz, 59 CCPA 866, 455 F.2d 1069, 173 USPQ 25 (1972).

With respect to claim 2: Fenel (Abstract, Figs. 1 – 7) further discloses: wherein the parallel swaging operation is performed by means of the die after the insertion of the mandrel.

With respect to claim 3: Fenel (Abstract, Figs. 1 – 7) further discloses: wherein a tapered surface is formed at an inner edge of a tip end of the blank tube through a cooperative action between the mandrel and the die.

With respect to claim 4: Fenel (Abstract, Figs. 1 – 7) further discloses: wherein a reduced thickness portion is formed at a tip end of the blank tube through a cooperative action between the mandrel and the die, so that the reduced thickness portion can be used as a bent piece extending in a radially inward direction.

With respect to claim 5: Fenel (Abstract, Figs. 1 – 7) further discloses: wherein a reduced thickness portion is formed at the tip end of the blank tube through a cooperative action between the mandrel and the die so that the reduced thickness portion can be used as a bent piece extending in a radially inward direction.

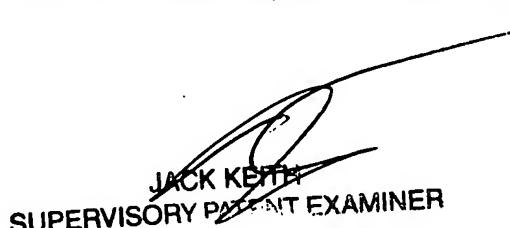
With respect to claims 6 - 10: Fenel (Abstract, Figs. 1 – 7) further discloses: wherein the die is a cylindrical die and a relief is formed in an inner surface of the cylindrical die to extend circumferentially, and the relief portion has a slightly enlarged inner diameter and is used as a reservoir for lubricating oil.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung C. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-8757. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 07:30am - 05:00 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack W. Keith can be reached on 571-272-6878. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HCL
08/31/06


JACK KEITH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER